

REMARKS

An Office Action was mailed April 16, 2008. This response is timely. Any fee due with this paper, including any necessary extension fees, may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Summary

Claims 12-29 were examined, of which claim 1 is the only independent claims.

By the foregoing, the specification and claims 12, 16, 24, and 29 are amended. No new matter has been added.

Objection to the Drawings

The drawings are objected to for failing to show the wooden block of claim 25. Claim 8, as originally filed, includes the limitation of “*a wooden block (10) on top to allow nailing down wooden boards.*” The specification at 7:20 et al. teaches

“on the top the primary beam (3) can be optionally provided with a wooden block (10) that will support the board used for riveting to both the wall and pillars, as the wooden block (10) allows securing the board with nails.”

Figs. 7 and 16 show a wooden block 10 disposed on one of the primary beams or one of the cross-beams (seen as the beam perpendicular to the plane of the paper) in for nailing wooden boards to the beams.

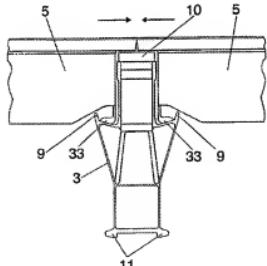


FIG. 16

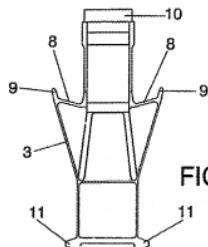


FIG. 7

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the objection.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

Claims 23 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph for failing to teach the limitation *“the top end of the respective vertical brace comprises a locking device for locking the respective vertical brace to the respective bolster support”* in claim 23.

Figs. 21-24 and the specification at 8:18-9:04 and elsewhere show and teach the claimed limitation. Figs. 23 and 24 illustrate the bolsters of Figs. 21 and 22 and *“show[...] the locking of the clamp acting as a wedge and its release, respectively.”* The specification teaches at 10:9-11 that

“... assembly is performed following the stages shown in figure 13, so that in a first stage a) a brace (1) is installed with its corresponding support bolster (2).”

At 8:18 et al., the specification teaches

“As regards the clamp or nut (17) acting as a locking wedge, it is internally provided with a pair of inclined plates (21) that act as a wedge on a stopping element (22) provided for such purpose in the main tube (13) of the bolster assembly, such that it is released or locked by turning or striking it with a hammer. Said clamp or locking wedge (17) is provided on its side with projections (23) where the hammer is struck to release it. Said locking wedge (17) works by rotating about its support or main tube (13) of the bolster, thereby obtaining a more compact assembly and preventing any interference during stripping, even when operating with systems very near to already raised walls.

The bolster being described, and more specifically its main tube (13), is provided with elements (24) by way of a guide for the plate (16) as it moves up or down, preventing the latter from turning with respect to the main tube (13).” Emphasis Added.

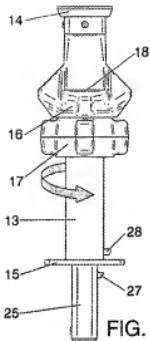


FIG. 21

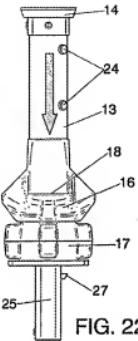


FIG. 22

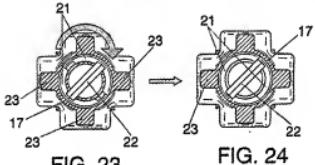


FIG. 23

Applicant respectfully submits that the limitation is taught by the specification.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 12-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to claim the subject matter distinctly. Where needed, the claims are amended to overcome the rejections.

With regard to claim 12, the application discloses at 4:04 et al.

"Another novel characteristic of the system relates to the support bolsters, which have a plate with four cross-shaped sectors defining as many cradles for the longitudinal and cross beams to rest in, and said cradles having a base that is inclined downwards towards the middle to achieve a slight wedging of the beams against the braces, so that by means of this inclined-base support and the weight of the concrete the panels will tend to close the grid, thereby improving the seal of the system.

For this purpose **the longitudinal and cross beams** have a protrusion on their ends in the form of a heel, with its lower surface inclined and complementary of the inclination of the base of the support cradles defined in the brace plates in order to

determine an effective support between the two components and, as mentioned before, tending to close the grid to improve the seal." Emphasis added.

Claim 1 as originally filed recited

... the support bolsters (2) are provided with a plate (16) having four cross-shaped sectors that define as many cradles (18) with inclined bases for the positioning and support of the ends of the primary beams (3) and the cross beams (4). Emphasis added.

The specification has been amended to include this subject matter. No new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 12 is now definite.

With regard to claim 16, the recitation of "*the beam groove receives one of one of the plurality of cross-beams perpendicularly and cantilevered beams*" is definite and by way of example, but not limitation, could be read as that the beam groove is either one of the cross-beams perpendicularly arranged or a cantilevered beam. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 16 is definite.

With regard to claim 19, the recitation "*each cradle further comprises an outwardly projecting oblique protrusion for hanging one of the one of the plurality of primary beams and one of the cross-beam*" is definite and by way of example, but not limitation, could be read as that each cradle further comprises and outwardly projecting oblique protrusion for hanging one of the primary beams or one of the cross-beam. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 19 is definite.

With regard to claim 23, the remarks made with respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph is hereby incorporated by reference. For those reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 23 is definite.

With regard to claim 28, the specification teaches at 5:27 et al. that

... the primary beams are provided with lower protrusions in the form of heels, between which is defined a recess that forms a housing, with said heels having an inclined surface so that the aforementioned primary beams can rest by said inclined

surfaces on fixed bolsters, with the recess being used to house means or elements for centering the beam on the bolster. Emphasis added

Similarly, at 7:16 et al. the specification teaches that

Said primary beams (3) are provided on their ends with protrusions having an inferior projection in the form of a heel (6), with its inner surface (7) slightly inclined for reasons that will be explained further below.

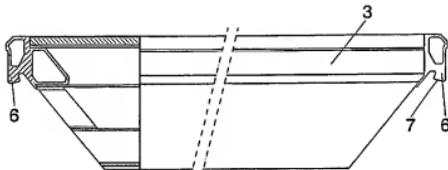


FIG. 6

Thus, by way of example, but not limitation, heel 6 defines a projection that is disposed behind the heel. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 28 is definite in view of the specification.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 12, 18-23, and 25-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by GB 1 457 136. Claims 12, 17-19, 25, 26, 28 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by GB 905,408. Claims 12, 17-19, 25, 26, 28, and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over GB 905,410 in view of GB 408. Claims 12-23 and 25-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over DE 39 210 64 (cited previously by the Examiner, but not applied) in view of GB 136.

As examined, claims 12 and 29 are independent claims. Claim 24, which is not rejected over art, has been amended to independent form by including the subject matter of claim 12 and any intervening claims. Passage to allowance of claim 24 is respectfully requested.

Before addressing the rejections, a review of the presently claimed invention may aid in examination. Independent claim 12

“. . . each cradle comprising a first inclined planar base for the positioning and support at least one end of one of a respective one of the plurality of primary beams and one of a respective cross-beam,

wherein the at least one end of the respective one of the plurality of primary beams and one of the respective cross-beam supported by the support bolster comprises a heel having a lower surface comprising a first inclination complementarily to the first inclined planar base of the respective one of cradles for wedging the at least one formwork panel towards the respective one of the vertical braces.” Emphasis added.

Independent claim 29 recites

“. . . wherein each of the support bolsters comprise a cradle having an inclined planar receiving base;

wherein each of the one end of the plurality of primary beams and one end of one of the plurality of cross-beams supported by the respective support bolster comprises a heel having a first lower surface that is inclined complementarily to the receiving base of the respective one of cradles for wedging the one formwork panel towards the respective one of the vertical braces.”

Thus, independent claims 12 and 29 recite that the cradle in the support bolster includes an inclined planar base that wedges the formwork panel towards the brace. By way of example, but not limitation, the inclined planar base is the inclined base in cradle 18 shown in Figs. 4 and 16 below and wedges the beam and formwork towards the vertical brace. This provides for easier assembly that does not require accurate placement and easier disassembly.

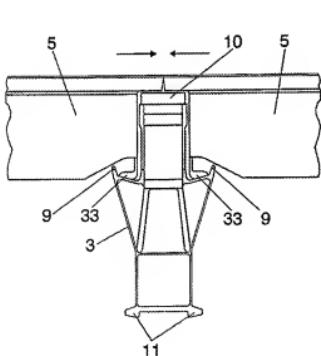


FIG. 16

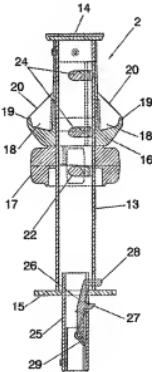
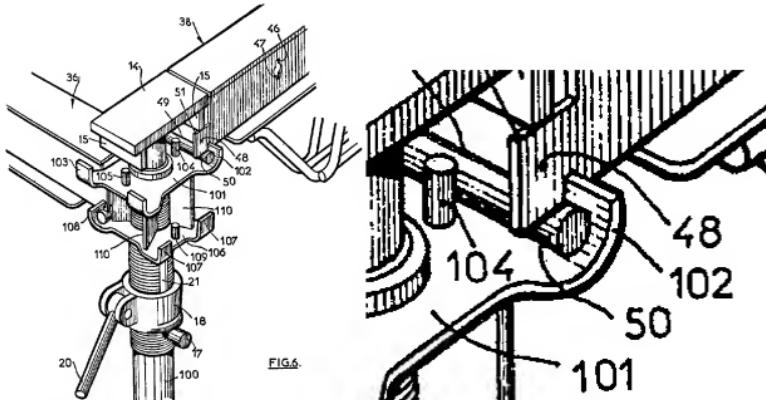


FIG. 4

With regard to the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection over GB '136, GB '136 does not teach, disclose, or suggest an inclined planar base. GB '136 teaches a



GB '136 teaches a beam having a cross-rod 49 attached via a pair of lugs 48 (5:31 et al.) received in an abutment 50 delimited by a pin such as pin 104 (7:34 et al.). As is evident in the detail view of Fig. 6, the abutment consists of a curved section that receives the cross-rod. Pin 104 immediately beyond the curved section detains the rod from sliding. Vertically oriented cuts within the lugs further lock the beam in position.

Thus, not only is a planar inclined base missing from the arrangement of GB '136, the arrangement that is present would not act the same way. The pin and the cuts in the lugs prevent the beam from wedging in place for easier assembly. Indeed, GB '136 would require precision assembly time in placing cross-rod just right and locking the lugs in place. Clearly, GB '136 fails to appreciate the presently claimed invention's easier assembly made possible by the inclined planar base. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection.

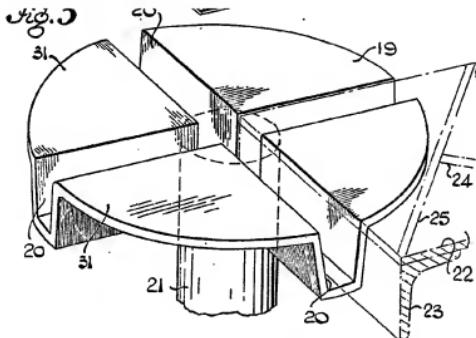
With regard to the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection over GB '408, GB '408 does not teach, disclose, or suggest the claimed invention. GB '408 teaches two embodiments of a support for a shuttering. GB '408 teaches that shuttering shown in Fig. 2 includes a corner that includes

"portions 18 which are of flat, generally horizontal form" (2:27-28). These corners are "engaged" in groove 13 of the support embodiment of Fig. 1. 2:12 et al. Thus, GB '408 fails to teach, disclose, or suggest the presently claimed invention's easier assembly made possible by the inclined planar base.

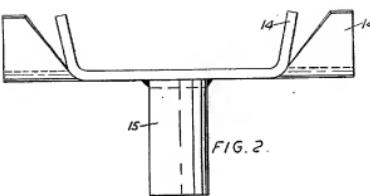
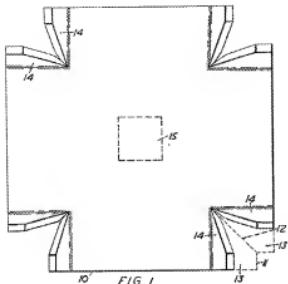
Indeed, the second embodiment shown in Fig. 3 is equally silent as to an inclined planar base. GB '408 teaches that the L shaped angle iron 23 that rests in grooves 20. Nothing therein suggests that the groove is inclined.

In fact, everything suggests the opposite: that the groove is flat. For example, flange 23 is depicted as a regularly obtainable angle-iron stock having uniform dimensions. One skilled in the art would be concerned about shear punch-out at the support and want flange 23 rather than surface 22 to engage the support. Thus, groove 20 would be designed to match the dimensions of the angle-iron and have constant depth. In other words, groove 20 would be flat.

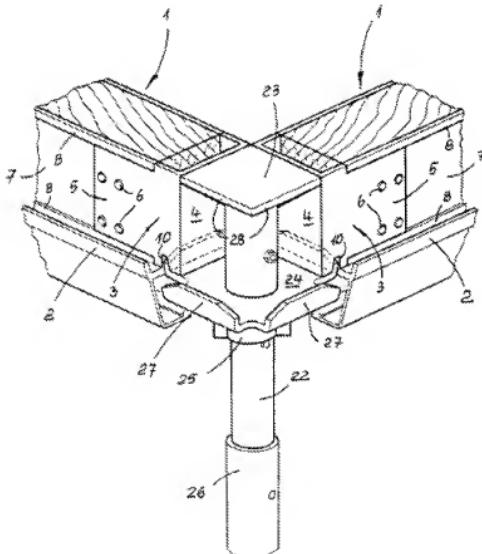
Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection.



With regard to the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection over GB '410 and GB '408, GB '410 fails to fill the gap or permit one skilled in the art to adapt GB '408 to a different outcome and vice versa. GB '410 teaches a support having a flat plate 10. GB '410 fails to provide an inclined base for supporting a formwork and both references fail to teach, disclose, or suggest the presently claimed invention's inclined planar base.



With regard to the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection over DE '064 and GB '136, DE '064 teaches a flat central portion 24 into which beam edges 21 are hooked. As discussed previously, GB '136 also fails to teach an inclined base. Thus, both references fail to fill the gap or permit one skilled in the art to adapt the other reference's shortcomings to a different outcome to arrive at an inclined base. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection.



All dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claim from which they depend.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper, including any necessary extension fees, may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

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